



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

FACT SHEET

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Pine Bluff Chemical Activity and Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

Pine Bluff: *Creating a Safer Tomorrow*

Located in the heart of a rich agricultural area in the mid-south region of Arkansas, Pine Bluff plays an important role in current national and global affairs.

Where were the weapons located?

The chemical weapons were stored in highly secure storage areas at the Pine Bluff Arsenal. Groundbreaking for the arsenal was held on December 2, 1941, less than a week before the bombing at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. When the United States declared war soon after, the arsenal construction schedule was stepped up. Since then, the Arsenal's mission has expanded. It now possesses diverse capabilities in the fields of conventional ammunition production, chemical/biological defense and protection equipment and emergency preparedness.

What was the PBCDF?

The PBCDF was a third generation incineration facility designed solely to dispose of Pine Bluff Arsenal's chemical weapons stockpile. The facility was engineered with specially designed weapons handling equipment, complex control systems and detailed procedures and training to protect the health and safety of the workers, the public and the environment.

How were the weapons destroyed?

The PBCDF used incineration technology to destroy the weapons. With this technology, robotic equipment disassembled the weapons so that each component was treated in a separate incinerator. Specifically, chemical agent was drained from the weapon and destroyed in a liquid incinerator, while the explosive components of the weapon were destroyed in a special deactivation furnace.

Who destroyed the weapons?

The U.S. Army's Chemical Materials Agency was responsible for safely disposing stored chemical weapons at Pine Bluff and six other storage sites across the country. In 1998, the Army awarded a contract to Washington Group International to construct, test, operate and close the PBCDF. Many other organizations worked in partnership with the Army to successfully



complete this mission. Among these are the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and its Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Some of your family members or friends may have worked on this historic project.

How was the environment protected?

Permits for the facility, awarded by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, were written based solely on studies conducted locally. This ensured that operations at the disposal facility were protective of local citizens and the Pine Bluff area environment.

What will happen to the facility and the depot now that the weapons are gone?

The Army completed destruction of Pine Bluff's stockpile in November 2010 and the PBCDF is undergoing closure operations. The arsenal will continue supporting its other mission areas.



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